



Learning is Doing

Whether in science, language arts, music, or mathematics, learning is achieved most effectively by practice and experience. The more authentic the experience the better sense students have in the need and context of what they are trying to learn. With every new lesson there is potential for discovery and this sense of discovery - of curiosity- is what we hope to foster and encourage. As with any authentic experience the potential of getting it wrong must be a part of the process. In fact we often learn more from our mistakes than our successes. Recently, I read a quote from Michael Jordan:

"I have missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot... and missed. I have failed over and over again in my life. And that is why... I succeed."

The key piece is that Mr. Jordan attributes his success to his ability to persist, as opposed to an absence of mistakes. I can recall during the interview process here at Lyme, I was asked "Do you believe students can fail?" My response remains the same... only if we are learning. The odd thing is our obsession with trying to eliminate "failure" from the experience of learning. If we think of it as one of many attempts towards our goal as opposed to a final attempt or a false summation of who we are as a human being, we can use it as a tool to become resilient to inevitable setbacks in pursuit of a goal. In my mind a failure occurs only when we do not attempt that which could lead to some failures or, when one has been unsuccessful, they stop trying. Work hard, think creatively, and persist through mistakes.



Viewing, Observing, Reading

How human beings learn is a fascinating process, a process which we understand more about every day. As more answers are revealed the complexity of this process becomes increasingly intricate. In early civilizations learning was accomplished via oral tradition, experience and observation. With the invention of the printing press, written word and "reading" (and by that I mean the reading of the written word) became the most efficient way to distribute

information to a broad audience, or at least efficient for those that could read. As this technology proliferated observation and oral traditions as a means of learning began to diminish. We are now at another point of confluence. This period is likely as dramatic as the period following the invention of the printing press. It would be no surprise that the new technology I am speaking of is visual technology (televisions, computers, cameras, telescopes etc.) This technology requires different neurological processing and decoding skills than reading text, great news for visual and aural learners. It also reintroduces the validity and necessity of

observational skills. The proliferation of these new technologies as well as the our growing understanding of the means by which people learn, is changing what takes place in our classrooms. One example is the awareness that the modality of learning (means by which people learn - seeing, hearing, speaking, touching...) is completely separate from intelligence. While we may not recognize that a bias existed, evidence of its existence is present in the career direction students were encouraged to pursue during their education. For example students with strong kinesthetic



processing skills (muscular or touch learners) were often directed out of the academic classrooms and into the trade classrooms. Students in these cases may have either been overtly directed or directed out of their lack of opportunity to process information using their dominant learning style resulting in a lack of success and frustration. Our challenge in education is to shape instruction in a way that, instead of assessing the means by which someone processes information, we assess what one does with the information once they possess it -- to create opportunities which allow each student to experience learning through their dominant learning modality. How do you learn ?



THE LYME SCHOOL Newsletter



4
VOLUME: 3 •
 2008-2009
 SCHOOL YEAR

INK Spot

Imagination and Knowledge

After the Rain

After the earth is cleanly washed,
 I look out for a sign,
 Of sparkles galore, and rainbows in store,
 The beauty is all mine.

It can not happen even twice,
 It's true, I'm telling you,
 Not one single shiver, when the bird will twitter,
 The entire world is new.

- Leia, Grade 5

Haiku

Keep this coal alight
 Let it burn away the fear
 Of the dark unknown

The wind shows distance
 The depth is unlimited
 The skies are open

- Gus, Grade 5

Haikus are Japanese poems of 5 lines which contain 5 syllables, then 7 syllables, followed by 5 syllables.



THE LYME SCHOOL HEALTH OFFICE

Thank you Brenda!

For caring for our students during the transition.



Welcome Jennifer, Our New School Nurse

The Lyme School would like to welcome Jennifer Woodmansee as our new school nurse. Jennifer has worked as a pediatric nurse in San Diego and Chicago before moving to the Upper Valley. In pursuit of her goal to be a school nurse, she has most recently worked at the Aloha Camp, the Dartmouth College Infirmary and as a substitute nurse and volunteer nurse at Crossroads Academy. She is wonderful!





**DRESS LIKE A
HIPPIE
DANCE
THIS FRIDAY**



CHANGE OF DATE

It's a Girls World

Tuesday, October 21st, at
6:45pm

To Parents of Third through
Eighth Graders (and anyone
else who would like to come!),

At the Lyme School, on Tuesday,
October 21st, at 6:45, we will be
showing the film *It's a Girls World*.

This film is a documentary about
"social bullying"- specifically, how girls use
their power to hurt each other. Parents of
boys are as welcome as are parents of girls.

"Relational bullying" is not a new issue to
schools. Let's all get on board with this and
help to make the Lyme School a leader in
eliminating exclusion and hurtful behavior.

We hope to see you on the 21st!



Lunch

Week of

9/22 to 9/26



**River Cleanup
Saturday, Oct 4th**

Connecticut River Cleanup
Project
Everyone is welcome.

9:00 at the **Lyme School Playground**

Be sure to bring your mud boots, work
gloves and clean water spirit.



8th Grade Parents' Meeting

Monday, Sept. 22nd @ 7:00

Planning meeting for the 8th grade trip.
Participation of parents is vital.

Fleece Drive

For several years we have
collected used fleece jack-
ets to be donated to the
Himalayan Children's



Project.

Donation boxes are located in the
school lobby. Donations will be col-
lected until September 30th.



Blisters for Books

Tuesday, Sept. 23

Rain Date September 30th
Pledges Due Friday Sept. 19th



Race Schedule

- 8:30-8:45-K
- 8:50-9:20-4th
- 9:25-9:55-3rd
- 10:00-10:30-5th
- 10:35-11:05 8th grades
- 12:20-12:50-both 7th grades
- 1:15-1:45-6th
- 2:00-2:30-grades 1 and 2

**Picture Day
Monday,
September 29th**



The Converse Free Library's
policy regarding
**AFTERSCHOOL USE OF THE
LIBRARY BY CHILDREN**
is in your child's envelopes.



Contact me at:
Jeff.Valence@valley.net
Phone: 795-2125



You may print color copies of the Newsletters at:
www.LymeSchool.org

Message
from the
P.T.O.

Price Chopper Tools for Schools Program We are participating in the "Tools for Schools Program." All credit is earned electronically through the Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card. This program is designed to help us earn educational equipment. To help our school earn points, you need to register your AdvantEdge number at www.pricechopper.com under the Tools for School heading or send your number to kpmcgowan@earthlink.net and we'll register for you. The Lyme School number is 15055.

PTO Membership Drive ends Wednesday, September 24 In an effort to get the student directory printed without much more delay we will be concluding the PTO membership drive. This will be the only printing and PTO will have limited Student Directories available after printing. Replacement directory can be purchased for \$2.00, if you lose it (to cover printing cost). Membership forms are available online at www.lymeschool.org

"The Bulb-A-Thon is almost here! Volunteers needed for Sat. Sept. 27 Flea Market table from the following grades: 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 8th. Two volunteers from each class level needed to represent their class to raise funds for class accounts. Then all students will be asked to get sponsors for bulbs from Oct 3 - Oct 13th. The planting of 1,000 bulbs will be on Friday, Oct 17th on the Common. Parent volunteers are needed for that morning. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sue Hanlon @ 353.9933 or shanlon@webmd.net.**

Congratulation to Art Directory Contest winner is 3rd grader, Amelia Roth! Amelia's drawing will be on the cover of the 2008/2009 Lyme School Student Directory. Thank to all children that participated this year! Look forward to see your work next year!